Permission for fishing to foreign firms in Indian territorial waters

2042. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign firms have been given permission for fishing in the territorial waters of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any regulation has been formulated for grant of deep sea fishing permit to the foreign firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Maritime Zones of India Act, 1981 and the rules framed there under regulate fishing by foreign fishing vessels. However, no foreign firms have been granted permission for fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone since 1996.

Rehabilitation package for farmers of Kuttanad and Idukki districts in Kerala

2043.PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has approved the M.S. Swaminathan's report of rehabilitation package to farmers of Kuttanad and Idukki districts in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has started the implementation of this package;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the package is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 24.07.2008, the Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support of Rs. 1840.75 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions for the development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system. On 20.11.2008, Government has also granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support of Rs. 764.45 crore for implementing various programmes/interventions for mitigating the agrarian distress in Idukki district.

The programmes/interventions envisaged under the Kuttanad and Idukki packages will be implemented by the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India within their existing schemes and as per the extant funding pattern. The Government of Kerala will, after identifying the activities to be undertaken, submit appropriate proposals after formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the approved guidelines / procedures for such schemes for release of necessary

funds. The programme/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50.00 lakhs under both the packages will be implemented by the Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system, the Government of Kerala has submitted 53 project reports for strengthening of Padasekharams and 32 project reports pertaining to the areas of development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, environment management etc.

(e) The Kuttanad and Idukki packages will be implemented over a period of five years.

Public medical stores

†2044. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to start public medical stores for providing drugs at cheaper rates to the common man;

(b) if so, the time limit set to extend this scheme to every district in the country;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure the availability of medicines at the above sales centres; and

(d) whether accountability has been fixed for shortage of medicines in these stores and if so, the authority who will be held accountable for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Government has decided to open "jan aushadhi" generic drug stores in the country depending upon the financial assistance and other support offered by respective State Governments. The first District Generic Store in the name of" jan aushadhi" has been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) on 25-11-08. The list of medicines is finalized in consultation with State Governments. Bureau of Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings has been asked to ensure availability of medicines at all" jan aushadhi" generic drug stores keeping in view the requirement of each State.

Foreign investment in pharma industry

2045.SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the Ranbaxy's takeover by a Japanese multinational that poses a big threat to the survival of the domestic generic industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to impose control on foreign investment in pharma sector to prevent complete MNC hold in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Recent takeover of Ranbaxy by a Japanese multinational is already there in the notice of the Government. As per the extant policy, FDI upto 100%, under the automatic route, is allowed for drugs and pharmaceutical industry subject to sectoral regulations and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.